

# Eastern Regional Commission on the Status of Women and Girls

## Annual Report 2022

### **Commissioners:**

Margaret Adams (Superintendent Hingham Schools), Dedham, Vice-Chair  
Kerry Akashian (Career Development Education Lead), North End  
Soumia Aitelhaj (Legislative Policy Aide), Revere  
Linda Champion (Attorney), Milton  
Manya Chylinski (Communications specialist), Back Bay  
Amanda Crabb (Assistant Professor), Quincy, Chair  
Schuyler Daum (Assistant Attorney General), Jamaica Plain  
Tamisha Lucien Civil (Associate Probation Officer), Stoughton  
Toby Kamens Rodman (Outreach Director), Brookline

### **Regional Area:**

Eastern Regional Commission on the Status of Women includes the towns of Avon, Brookline, Canton, Cohasset, Dedham, Foxborough, Holbrook, Milton, Plainville, Randolph, Sharon, Stoughton, and Westwood, and the cities of Boston, Braintree, Chelsea, Quincy, Revere, Weymouth, and Winthrop.

### **Meetings:**

The Commission held 7 meetings on July 19, February 3, March 3, April 7, May 5, May 11, May 15. There was no quorum at the July 19 and February 3 meetings.

### **Advocacy:**

The group did not advocate for any specific legislation this year. However, at the meeting with the Massachusetts Caucus of Women we brought forward concerns of mental health and reproductive health and access. We gained much information from the Legislative breakfast, which is discussed below.

### **Programming:**

#### *Legislative breakfast*

On May 21, 2022, the Commission hosted a breakfast event to honor the work of school nurses, and bring together nurses, educators, advocates, and legislators to discuss how COVID has impacted the healthcare and education of women and girls in the Eastern

region of the Commonwealth. The event was held at Florian Hall, 55 Hallet Street, Dorchester.

Nurses honored: Jill Connolly, Braintree Public Schools; Dr. Mary Jane O'Brien, Boston Public Schools; Dr. Patricia Johnson, Director of the M.Ed. Program-Cambridge College.

The following issues arose during the conversations as the most important for women and girls in our region, and will guide our legislative direction next year.

- Many stories from the school nurses about the bridging and healthcare made it clear what nurses do and the impact they have—these professionals have to wear many different hats and many people are unaware of the work they do, they are “Janes of all trades.” .
- Teachers and nurses, and women in general, are not able to help students when overwhelmed by trying to do it all, and there is a need to be brave and advocate for themselves.
- Teachers and nurses make a difference for students in more ways than providing education and healthcare. Connectedness and bringing in trauma informed care and social emotional learning is important.
- Children do not leave their community at that door, they bring it in with them. Concerns nurses shared about students and their families include: mental health and attitude of this topic in immigrant families; severe increase in mental health needs and stigma; adolescents becoming more aggressive, anxious and/or depressed and not having the skills to communicate; increases in youth suicide , LGBTQ students feel increasingly isolated; the impact of social media on students; and housing security.
- We need short -term and long -term game plans for recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, including retention and recruiting people in these professions (paraprofessionals, teachers, and nurses) which will requires more money and support. There has been a mass exodus of nurses to become traveling nurses, due to compensation levels and for security, since the front line workers are the ones whose jobs get cut.

## **New Commissioners**

In February 2022, we were excited to add new commissioners to help support our mission

- Linda Champion, Milton, Attorney

- Manya Chylinski, Back Bay, Communications specialist and mental health advocate
- Schuyler Daum, Jamaica Plain, Assistant attorney general, consumer protection

**Conclusions:**

At this time we do not have specific goals for the upcoming year. We plan to have a summer retreat where we will discuss as a Commission our By-Laws and goals.

During the 2021-2022 year, the Eastern Regional Commission on the Status of Women and Girls focused on relaunching the regional commission. The ERCSW welcomed three new members in March 2022. Zoom has helped alleviate the difficulty of trying to find meeting spaces and allowed Commissioners more flexibility in attendance. This has helped us maintain a quorum at many meetings. The ERCSW is excited to reintroduce themselves to the community with a full commission.

Respectfully Submitted by Amanda Crabb, Chair of Eastern Regional Commission on the Status of Women and Girls on May 25, 2022

There was no posted agenda for the July 19, 2021 meeting

## February 3, 2022 AGENDA

I want to remind everyone that we are meeting on Thursday, February 3rd via the ZOOM below with Commissioner Tuitt to organize the ERCW.

**MCSW is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting:**

**Topic:** Eastern Regional Commission Meeting W/ Commissioner Tuitt

**Time:** Feb 3, 2022 07:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

**Join Zoom Meeting:** <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87677768995>

**Meeting ID:** 876 7776 8995



THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS  
COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN



**Eastern Regional Commission on the Status of Women  
and Girls  
Meeting Agenda**

**Date:** Thursday, March 3, 2022

**Time:** 7:00-8:30PM

Due to the ongoing COVID-19 Pandemic and State of Emergency, on March 12, 2020, Governor Baker issued an Executive Order Temporarily Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law, G.L. c. 30A sec. 20. Pursuant to the Order, public bodies are temporarily relieved from the Open Meeting Law's requirement that meetings be held in public places, open and physically accessible to the public, so long as measures are taken to ensure public access to the bodies' deliberations "through adequate, alternative means."

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://curry.zoom.us/j/99076844482>

Meeting ID: 990 7684 4482

One tap mobile

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+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

Meeting ID: 990 7684 4482

Find your local number: <https://curry.zoom.us/u/abOiKnaklk>

**Agenda for Meeting:**

- Approval of Meeting Minutes

- Discussion of executive board roles and terms
- Update on new Commissioners
- Legislative Breakfast
- Commissioner's Update
- Public Input

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**Eastern Regional Commission on the Status of Women  
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Meeting Agenda**

**Date:** Thursday, April 7, 2022

**Time:** 7:00-8:30PM

Due to the ongoing COVID-19 Pandemic and State of Emergency, on March 12, 2020, Governor Baker issued an Executive Order Temporarily Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law, G.L. c. 30A sec. 20. Pursuant to the Order, public bodies are temporarily relieved from the Open Meeting Law's requirement that meetings be held in public places, open and physically accessible to the public, so long as measures are taken to ensure public access to the bodies' deliberations "through adequate, alternative means."

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Meeting ID: 990 7684 4482

Find your local number: <https://curry.zoom.us/u/abOiKnaklk>

**Agenda for Meeting:**

- Approval of Meeting Minutes - February and March

- Information from Regional Commissioners Meeting
- Update on new Commissioners
- Legislative Breakfast
- Discussion of executive board roles and terms
- Commissioner's Update
- Public Input

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**Eastern Regional Commission on the Status of Women  
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Meeting Agenda**

**Date:** Thursday, May 5, 2022

**Time:** 7:00-8:30PM

Due to the ongoing COVID-19 Pandemic and State of Emergency, on March 12, 2020, Governor Baker issued an Executive Order Temporarily Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law, G.L. c. 30A sec. 20. Pursuant to the Order, public bodies are temporarily relieved from the Open Meeting Law's requirement that meetings be held in public places, open and physically accessible to the public, so long as measures are taken to ensure public access to the bodies' deliberations "through adequate, alternative means."

Join Zoom Meeting

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Meeting ID: 990 7684 4482

Find your local number: <https://curry.zoom.us/u/abOiKnaklk>

**Agenda for Meeting:**

- Approval of Meeting Minutes

- Information from Regional Commissioners Meeting
- Legislative Breakfast
- June Meeting
- Annual Report
- Commissioner's Update
- Summer Retreat
- Public Input

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**Eastern Regional Commission on the Status of Women  
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Meeting Agenda**

**Date: Wednesday, May 11, 2022**

**Time: 7:00-8:30PM**

Due to the ongoing COVID-19 Pandemic and State of Emergency, on March 12, 2020, Governor Baker issued an Executive Order Temporarily Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law, G.L. c. 30A sec. 20. Pursuant to the Order, public bodies are temporarily relieved from the Open Meeting Law's requirement that meetings be held in public places, open and physically accessible to the public, so long as measures are taken to ensure public access to the bodies' deliberations "through adequate, alternative means."

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86174728431?pwd=dFAwa1Q4Y3loNk94MkJaRVdPSki4QT09>

Meeting ID: 861 7472 8431

Passcode: i8UeE8

One tap mobile

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Meeting ID: 861 7472 8431

Passcode: 539211

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/u/k0CzIVGvJ>

**Agenda for Meeting:**

- Approval of Meeting Minutes
- Planning for Legislative Breakfast
- Public Input

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**Eastern Regional Commission on the Status of Women  
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Meeting Agenda**

**Date: Wednesday, Sunday May 15, 2022**

**Time: 8:00-9:00 PM**

Due to the ongoing COVID-19 Pandemic and State of Emergency, on March 12, 2020, Governor Baker issued an Executive Order Temporarily Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law, G.L. c. 30A sec. 20. Pursuant to the Order, public bodies are temporarily relieved from the Open Meeting Law's requirement that meetings be held in public places, open and physically accessible to the public, so long as measures are taken to ensure public access to the bodies' deliberations "through adequate, alternative means."

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82199210320?pwd=UFptSU1IK01heU9jaHQ1NXcwWmtsZz09>

Meeting ID: 821 9921 0320

Passcode: eFpE18

One tap mobile

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+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

Meeting ID: 821 9921 0320

Passcode: 234191

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/u/kdyHqvfnBi>

**Agenda for Meeting:**

- Approval of Meeting Minutes
- Planning for Legislative Breakfast
- Public Input

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**Eastern Regional Commission on the Status of Women  
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**Legislative Breakfast**

**May 21, 2022**

**Florian Hall, 55 Hallet Street, Dorchester, MA**

**Bridging Healthcare and Education**

- |               |   |
|---------------|---|
| 8:30 - 9:15   | Registration and Breakfast  |
| 9:15 - 9:45   | Introduction by Dr. Amanda Crabb, Chair<br>Introduction of Massachusetts Eastern Regional Commissioners<br>Introduction of Legislators and Honored Guests<br>Introduction of Honorees |
| 9:45 - 10:00  | Explanation of Directions for Table Discussion and<br>Discussion Norms by Dr. Margaret Adams, Vice-Chair<br>Assign a Recorder, Discussion leader, and Reporter                        |
| 10:00 - 10:20 | Discussion by Table   |
| 10:20 - 10:30 | Share Out   |
| 10:30 - 10:50 | Discussion by Table   |
| 10:50 - 11:00 | Share Out and Recording of Themes from Tables   |

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**Eastern Regional Commission on the Status of Women  
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**Bridging Healthcare and Education**

**Discussion Leader**

1. Ask everyone to go around the table and introduce themselves

**Questions (10:00 - 10:20)**

2. What has been the impact of COVID on the physical and mental health of women and girls?
3. What has been the impact of COVID on the education of women and girls?

**Share Out**

**Questions (10:30 - 10:50)**

4. What issues are most important to women and girls in your district or from your perspective?
5. What are your proposals for legislation to support the issues you raise? What other solutions would you propose?

**Share Out**

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